

The National Quality Forum (NQF) and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) today announced the first recipients of the annual John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety Awards. The award honors John M. Eisenberg, M.D, M.B.A., who was administrator of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) at the time of his death in March of 2002. Eisenberg was also one of the founding leaders of the National Quality Forum and sat on its Board of Directors. In his roles both as AHRQ administrator and chair of the federal government's Quality Inter-Agency Council, he was a passionate advocate for patient safety and personally led AHRQ's new grant program to support patient safety research. Immediate Past ANA President Mary E. Foley, M.S., R.N., served on the selection committee.

For the 2002 year, winners were selected in each of the Award categories. The winners in the several categories are:

Individual Lifetime Achievement (Individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and scholarship in patient safety over their careers.)

Julianne Morath, R.N., M.S., Children's Hospitals and Clinics, Minneapolis, Minnesota ~ For her tireless and successful work at Children's Hospitals to introduce a culture of patient safety that promotes the sharing of information about errors to improve safety in the care of patients.

System Innovation (Projects or initiatives involving successful system changes or interventions that make the environment of care safer). (co-winners)

Concord Hospital, Concord, New Hampshire ~ For developing and implementing a structured communications protocol, adapted from human factors science, which broke down hierarchical role boundaries and improved the care of cardiac surgery patients.

Veterans Health Administration National Center for Patient Safety, Ann Arbor, Michigan ~ For innovation and leadership in developing and implementing a systems approach to error reduction within the VHA's 163 health care facilities.

Advocacy (Projects or initiatives involving safety-related interventions on behalf of patients.)

Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Lexington, Kentucky ~ For its national leadership in openly, and voluntarily, disclosing health care errors to harmed individuals and/or their families.

Research (Projects that involve the scholarly exploration of patient safety-related issues.)

David W. Bates, M.D., M.Sc., Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts ~ For his cutting-edge research in using information technology to measure and improve patient safety, particularly in the area of medication safety.